

CIA Letterhead

20 JUL 1977

Ms. Martha M. Gray
Computer Information Section
Institute for Computer Science and Technology
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D. C., 20234

Dear Ms. Gray:

The NBS Special Publication 500-7, Computers in the Federal Government: A Compilation of Statistics, has been reviewed by me and my staff. This report is particularly valuable in our efforts to relate the growth of the Office of Data Processing to the growth of computers within the Federal Government and within private industry. The interpretation of the GSA inventory figures and the graphs in the report has made this job much easier.

Following are two suggestions for future reports and one editorial comment on the present report:

Publication 500-7 and the GSA inventory use the term "computer(s)" to mean CPU's and "computer systems" to cover systems with one or more CPU's. The use of these terms without definitions is confusing. I suggest that "CPU" be used instead of "computers" in future reports and that the use of "computers" be restricted to be synonymous with "computer systems".

I also suggest that future reports break out federal ADP costs by hardware, software, personnel and contractual services per the data categories provided by agencies to OMB and GSA in exhibit 43A.

On page 27 of Publication 500-7 there is a line missing in the sentence - "For computers costing between \$50,000 and \$200,000 the average number of units with an average yearly growth rate of 3%". The apparent correction is "For computers (CPU's) costing between \$50,000 and \$200,000 the average number of CPU's per year that are added to the installed base is 62, with an average yearly growth rate of 3%".

Please send five additional copies of Special Publication 500-7 to me and add my name to your mailing list for future compilations. Thank you.

Yours truly,



Chief, Management Staff
Office of Data Processing
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Washington, D. C., 20505

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